

limits of the city of Madras:—*Curetis phædrus*, Fabricius; *Hebomoia glaucippe*, Linn; *Nepheronia fraterna*, Moore (form *ceylonica*); *Gomalia albofasciata*, Moore; *Udaspes folus*, Cramer, and *Hesperia galba*, Fabricius.

XVII.—*A new Trap-door Spider from Orissa.*—By SURGEON J. H. TULL
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[Received Oct. 27th:—Read 5th November, 1890.]

MYGALIDÆ.

ADELONYCHIA, n. g.

Adelonychia nigrostriata, ♀, n. sp.—At present the following description will be that of the genus also. The spider, which I think is not full grown, measures 10 mm. The falces are reddish-brown in colour with long fangs which act vertically. Pedipalpi of medium length, the terminal joint furnished with a black pad of strong hairs. Eyes: anterior and central pairs large and of a blackish-brown colour, the hind centrals and hind-externals—small and pearly white. Cephalothorax reddish-brown above, whitish yellow below; fovea transverse with eight dark, shallow grooves radiating from it. The cephalothorax is markedly convex in front between the two anterior dark markings and slightly convex over the remaining part. Abdomen oval, truncated in front and more convex on the upper than on the under surface. The ground colour above is greenish-grey with a central black stripe and seven well marked black lateral striæ directed downwards and slightly backwards from the central line. The entire upper surface of the abdomen is covered with fine light-coloured hairs. Under surface of abdomen dull grey, the four lung sacs visible as small whitish spots; two pairs of whitish spinnerets. Legs: relative length 4, 1, 2, 3, pale reddish yellow above, almost white below. Tarsi without hooks (?) but terminating in brush-like black pads. Falces, pedipalpi and legs thickly covered with strong blackish-brown bristle-like hairs.

On the 19th January of this year I was out looking for ants in the forest near Khurda and while digging round the roots of a Banyan tree I turned up a tube with a lid which I at once recognised as the home of a trap-door spider of the "cork nest" class. I had unfortunately cut obliquely through the tube, but the lid and hinge were intact. Having found one tube I began to dig carefully round the tree, and was successful in finding an almost perfect specimen with the spider inside. The trowel cut through the extreme lower end of the tube and disclosed the spider who made no attempt to escape downwards but clung tenaciously to the under surface of the lid. In order to enclose the spider and complete the tube, I went down to a neighbouring tank and

covered the cut end with mud. Although I continued to dig for some time in the neighbourhood I did not find any more specimens, and shortly afterwards was obliged to leave Khurda and return to my headquarters, taking with me the two nests and the captive spider. The situation of these nests is worthy of notice. They were in a cool sheltered spot which, as the tree would be a favourite resort for insects, no doubt formed an excellent hunting-ground for the spiders. The ground in which the tubes were found was sloping and bare. The spider found in the second nest was kept alive until the 8th of February and fed on flies, small beetles etc., but although I watched very carefully I never saw her come out of her nest and failed even to surprise her at night. All these spiders are shy and nocturnal in their habits, and there is no doubt that she did come out, as the bodies of flies placed close to the door of the nest at night were always found to be sucked dry in the morning. On one occasion I lifted the door and propped it half open with the body of a spider; during the night the body was removed and the lid closed down. Once or twice when I endeavoured to raise the lid of the nest the spider strenuously opposed me by clinging to the undersurface; at other times I was able to raise the lid and then the spider retreated to the bottom of her tube and never made any attempt to escape. When I wanted to remove the spider to put her into spirit I was obliged to stir her up with a straw before she would bolt. She rushed out and ran down on to the floor, but stayed there crouching close down to the matting and was evidently much dazzled by the bright sunlight.

The larger tube measured 30 mm. by 16 mm. at the opening and 20 mm. at the widest part near the lower extremity. The whole inner surface was lined with a tough whitish brown fibrous membrane. The hinge was of the same material and covered about one-third of the edge of the lid. The diameter of the lid on the upper surface was about 20 mm., and this surface was covered with earth of exactly the same colour as the surrounding ground, making discovery almost impossible except by accident. The under surface of the lid was strongly convex and covered with tough web similar to that lining the tube. The greatest thickness of the lid was in the centre, gradually decreasing towards the margin which was thin and fitted tightly over the aperture of the tube.

The tube in which the living spider was found was much smaller than the one just described, and as I wished to preserve the specimen intact, I did not make any measurements. There can, I think, be no doubt that both tubes belonged to the same species, and Moggeridge distinctly states (*Trap-door Spiders*, pp. 123, 127, Ed. 1873) that as the spiders increase in size they enlarge their dwellings accordingly.

